

CLAIMS:

1. A method of authorizing access to content by a sink device in accordance with usage rights, the content being stored on a storage medium controlled by a source device, the method comprising
verifying the revocation status of the sink device using
5 the most recently issued revocation information that is available if the usage rights need to be modified as part of the authorization of access to the content,
revocation information associated with the content stored on the storage medium otherwise.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1, in which revocation information that was applicable when the content was stored on the storage medium is used if the usage rights do not need to be modified.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, in which revocation information stored on the storage medium is used if the usage rights do not need to be modified.
4. The method of claim 3, comprising updating the revocation information recorded on the storage medium to the most recently issued revocation information if the usage rights need to be modified.
20 5. The method of claim 4, comprising only updating the part of the revocation information relating to the sink device.
6. The method of claim 4 or 5, in which the updating is performed only if the result of the verification is that the sink device has been revoked.
25 7. The method of claim 1, comprising verifying the revocation status of the sink device using revocation information associated with the content stored on the storage medium only if the usage rights do not need to be modified and the usage rights grant

unlimited permission to make copies of the content, and the most recently issued revocation information otherwise.

8. A source device (410) arranged for authorizing access to content (425) by a
5 sink device (400) in accordance with usage rights, the content being stored on a storage
medium (420) controlled by the source device, the source device comprising
revocation status checking means (415) for verifying the revocation status of the sink device
using
the most recently issued revocation information that is available if the usage
10 rights need to be modified as part of the authorization of access to the content,
revocation information associated with the content stored on the storage
medium otherwise.

9. The source device of claim 8, in which the revocation status checking means
15 are arranged to use revocation information that was applicable when the content was stored
on the storage medium if the usage rights do not need to be modified.

10. The source device of claim 8, in which the revocation status checking means
are arranged to verify the revocation status of the sink device using revocation information
20 associated with the content stored on the storage medium only if the usage rights do not need
to be modified and the usage rights grant unlimited permission to make copies of the content,
and the most recently issued revocation information otherwise.

11. A computer program product arranged to cause a processor to execute the
25 method of claim 1.